

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Cultural Arts Commission

Minutes

January 12, 2022

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| Members Present: | Karen Askin, Francis Bevington, Liliane Blom, Therese Capal, Connor Lee, Brian Rogers, Patricia Dubroof, Melissa Law, Howie Jung |
| Members Absent: | None |
| Councilmember: | Mark Pierzchala |
| Staff Present: | Laura Creech, Andy Lett, Betty Wisda, |
| Guests Present: | None |

Karen Askin asked Patricia Dubroof lead the virtual online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Re: Approval of the Minutes

The Cultural Arts Commission unanimously approved the minutes as written for the December 8, 2021 meeting.

Re: Chairperson's Report

- No report.

Re: Councilmember Report

- Mayor and Council will hold their next budget meeting hearing on March 7. Councilmember Pierzchala is expecting a challenging budget year.
- Councilmember Pierzchala encourages the Cultural Arts Commission members to show up early and often to the Mayor and Council meetings. Members should let the Mayor and Council hear your requests. It is best to speak during the budget hearing for your suggestions to be recorded and prioritized for the record. As a board member, you receive five minutes to speak. Citizens have three minutes to speak. It is crucial to advocate for the arts as a board member and resident. You may also speak at the Community Forum held before the Monday meetings but must submit information to the City Clark ahead of time to be added to the record. It is essential to have your voices heard and documented.
- King Farm Farmstead is a considerable opportunity to create a unique venue in Rockville. The property has many challenges and will be very expensive to develop. The goal is to renovate enough to attract a private partner to help fund long-term development.

Re: Staff Report

- The Rockville Civic Ballet held nine sold-out performances of "The Nutcracker" at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in December.
- A "Meet the Artists" event featuring the Rockville Art League Members' Juried Winter Show was held on December 5 at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.
- On December 8, the City posted the Call for Artists for the Rockville Skate Park Art Project on the City's website.
- The Rockville Chorus presented a "Backyard Concert" at 2 p.m. on December 18 on the patio adjacent to Social Hall.
- On December 19, the Rockville Concert Band performed "Home for the Holidays" concert at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The show was sold out.
- Staff working with City Manager on FY23 budget enhancements. The City Manager has the challenging task of reviewing and selecting what is best for the City.
- Staff contacted David Hess, the artist for the Gateway Project, and he was understandably disappointed that the project was canceled and hoped to help promote large artwork displays.
- The Rockville Concert Band is holding a concert honoring people who have passed.
- Held Call for Artists for an art show titled "Lost, Found and Looking Forward" for members of the Rockville Art League. Therese Capal is judging the show with selected artwork premiering on March 13. Art pieces will be on display through April at the gallery.
- Several programs have been suspended due to health and safety concerns with the surge of Covid-19. Most of them are sports programs.
- Staff have requested \$50,000 be included with the Arts In Public FY2023 as part of the City Manager's budget. There is the potential that this year's revenues will impact next year's budget. Staff did not discuss the arts' position as part of the Recreation and Parks budget. Previously the City Manager included the proposed position as part of the City Manager's office. If the Cultural Arts Commission supports the addition of the position, it should voice to the Mayor and Council as part of the budget meetings.

Re: Arts in Public Places

- Matthew Geller submitted a commercial building permit for sculpture at Rockville Swim and Fitness Center. The installation of the art has been delayed due to fiberglass shortages.
- The call for artists for the Rockville Skate Park art project was sent out with a deadline for submittal Monday, January 16.
- WMATA approached the City to create temporary art on the temporary bus stop structures at Rockville Metro Station. Committee members discussed creating art for three of the six systems most visible to Rockville Pike. Suggested environmental or tree-themed art. There was a great deal of discussion on how to best approach this project. Challenges include time restraints and needing WMATA approval of the art. The original idea of the temporary art projects was to give local budding artists and students the chance to show their talents. I want to install art by April and keep up until new bus stops are installed in June. The staff is planning to discuss ideas with WMATA next week.

Re: Cultural Arts Organizations and Creatives Summit Planning Task Force

- Francis reported that their sub-committee did not meet last month.
- The Cultural Arts Organization subcommittee will provide the Mayor and Council with a summary of what was learned from the cultural arts organizations presented to CAC.

Re: Human Rights Commission

- Conor reported City presented a proclamation on Human Rights Day on December 6.
- Holding a Martin Luther King Jr Day event on January 16 and Rockville Pride Day event in spring.
- Student Ambassador program has started up again. Conor suggested the CAC try to do something similar with student artists in the future. Frances expressed interest in helping with the Student Ambassador program and asked if the CAC might merge it with temporary art projects. Additional discussion will be needed to move the idea forward.
- Conor requested that someone share or take over the HRC liaison position. Connor has had scheduling conflicts on the night of the Human Rights Commission meetings. Brian Rogers said that he would be interested in serving as the Human Rights Commission liaison.

Re: Old Business

- No report

Re: New Business

- Lilian Blom will not be renewing her commission in February after 12 years on the board.
- Mayor and Council appointed Rosemary Storey to the Cultural Arts Commission.

Re: Announcements

- Karen reapplied for her position the CAC.
- Patricia announced the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival has chosen Richard Powers as the 2022 honoree. The festival committee is searching for a new treasurer and someone to work on marketing the event.

Re: Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held virtually at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

Re: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.